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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed June 1, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 and 34-36 were cancelled previously. Claim 42 has been cancelled in the present paper. Thus, claims 33 and 37-41 and 43-58 are currently pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 53-58. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicant believes that claims 53-58 are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the claims are paraphrased.

Claim Objections:

The recent Office Action objected to claims 51 and 52, and rejected claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to noted informalities arising from an incorrect dependency stated in these claims. Consequently, the dependency of claims 51 and 52 has been amended herein.

This change is believed to correct all the issues raised with regard to claims 51 and 52, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. This amendment to claims 51 and 52 is not intended to narrow or otherwise change the scope of the claims.

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Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 33, 38-46 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 530627 to Takei ("Takei"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reason.

Claim 44 recites:

An inkjet printing system comprising:
ink comprising a carrier fluid and having an electrical charge;
an inkjet print head using said ink for printing images on a transfer member
that is adjacent to said print head and moveable with respect to said print head; and
said transfer member disposed to transfer said images to a print medium;
wherein said electrical charge facilitates transfer of said images to the print
medium.
(emphasis added).

In contrast, Takei does not teach or suggest the claimed inkjet printing system in which an electrical charge in the ink facilitates transfer of an ink image from a transfer member to a print medium. To the contrary, Takei only teaches an electrical charge that causes the image to adhere more strongly to the transfer member rather than facilitating the transfer to the print medium.

According to Takei, "the coloring particles will remain on the transfer drum 51 due to the electric field between transfer drum 51 and electrode 69." (Takei, col. 10, lines 7-9). Takei does not ever teach or suggest an electrical charge that "*facilitates* transfer of said images to the print medium." (emphasis added).

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 44 and its dependent claims based on Takei should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Claim 33 recites:

A method of printing with an inkjet printing system, said method comprising:
providing a supply of liquid ink comprising a carrier fluid;
using said ink, printing an image with an inkjet print head on a transfer belt
that is adjacent to said print head and moveable with respect to said print head;
absorbing carrier fluid from ink of said image with said transfer belt;
heating said transfer belt to facilitate removal of said carrier fluid from said
image on said transfer belt; and
transferring said printed image from said transfer belt to a sheet of print
medium.

In contrast, Takei fails to teach or suggest heating a transfer belt that absorbs carrier fluid to facilitate removal of the carrier fluid from an image on the transfer belt. In Takei's Fig. 2 and the corresponding text, a belt (11) is taught that includes a "water absorbing layer." (Takei, col. 4, lines 55-58). However, Takei does not ever teach or suggest heating the belt (11) as recited in claim 33.

In Fig. 4 and the related text, Takei teaches a heating element (27) for heating a transfer *drum*. However, Takei does not ever teach or suggest "heating [a] transfer belt" as claimed. There is no teaching or suggestion in Takei that a transfer belt can or should be heated.

Takei only teaches heating a transfer drum to fill a "recovering tank" (26). Such a "recovering tank" is not used or taught in connection with the belt (11) of Takei's Fig. 2. Thus, Takei does not teach or suggest any reason for heating a transfer belt, as opposed to a transfer drum. In fact, one of skill in the art would likely conclude that Takei teaches away from the claimed heating of a transfer belt.

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed.

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Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 33 and its dependent claims based on Takei should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, the various dependent claims in this application recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by Takei. For example, claim 43 depends from claim 33 and recites "providing said supply of liquid ink comprising a carrier fluid with an electrical charge, wherein said electrical charge facilitates transfer of said images to the print medium." As demonstrated above with respect to claim 44, Takei fails to teach or suggest such subject matter. For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claim 43 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 37, 47, 48 and 50 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Takei taken alone. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claims 33 and 44.

Applicant notes that no prior art rejection was applied against claims 51 and 52.

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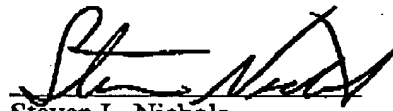
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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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